(1) Isa. L, 10.
(2) Ibid.
(3) Has he no light.
(4) The number required for a public service.
(5) In the absence of a quorum of ten, a number of important features in the service are omitted.
(6) Sc. the congregational responses. Isa. L, 2.
(7) Aliter: Alas, the pious man (is no more)!
(8) Cf. previous note.
(9) Gen. XIX, 27.
(10) Ps. CVI, 30.
(11) Hos. VI, 3.
(12) It is forbidden to take large steps on the Sabbath, v. Shab. 113b.
(13) Hos. XI, 10. The text continues: For he shall roar, and the children shall come hurrying (E.V. 'trembling').
(14) V. Glos.
(15) I.e., in the loud lamentation of the listeners.
(16) These aphorisms are intended to bring home the lesson that the real merit of doing certain things lies not in themselves, but in their concomitants. For instance, the people running to the lectures do not benefit by the lectures, as they do not understand them. However they will be rewarded for enduring the rush and crush. The mechanical repetition of a tradition has no value if you do not try to understand it better. The merit of a fast day lies not in the fasting but in giving charity to the poor people, that they may have something to eat, etc.
(17) Ps. XII, 9.
(18) MS. M.: An Arab passed by and saw him.
(19) V. Jast. Rashi: 'As if there were two powers'.
(20) Ibid.
(21) Lit., 'standing on the highest point of the world'.
(22) He interprets, 'When the exalted things (kerum) are reviled among the sons of men'. The reference is to Prayer.
(23) The meaning is: In the distant countries lying across the sea.
(24) Lewysohn, Zoologie, p. 183 identifies the bird with the 'bird of Paradise'.
(25) Ps. LXVI, 12.
(26) I Kings XVIII, 36,37.
(27) Ps. CXLI, 2.
(28) Ibid. V, 4.
(29) Jer. XXXIII, II.
(30) Lit., 'voices'. The plural is counted as two.
(31) Ex. XIX, 16, 19.
(32) There were not only five, but seven voices.
(33) Ibid. XX, 15. Cf. n. 5.
(34) One who felicitates the bridegroom.
(35) Jer. XXXIII, II.
(36) Ibid.
(37) Eccl. XII, 13. He interprets: 'Everything is heard, if you fear God'.
(38) [MS.M.: If one is used to greet his neighbour and fails to do so a single day, he transgresses the injunction 'Seek peace, etc.']
(39) Ps. XXXIV, 15.
(40) Isa. III, 14.

Talmud - Mas. Berachoth 7a

R. Johanan says in the name of R. Jose: How do we know that the Holy One, blessed be He, says prayers? Because it says: Even them will I bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer.[1] It is not said, 'their prayer', but 'My prayer'; hence [you learn] that the Holy One,